



The State of New Hampshire  
*Department of Environmental Services*



Michael P. Nolin

Commissioner

April 18, 2006

The Honorable Carl R. Johnson, Chair  
Environment and Wildlife Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 104  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**RE: HB 1373 Relative to Establishing a Study Commission for Recycling or  
Disposing Grease Trap Wastes**

Dear Chairman Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1373, which establishes a study commission to study ways to encourage the proper recycling or disposal of grease trap wastes and ways to develop additional disposal capacity. HB 1373 was amended in the House Environment and Agriculture Committee to include additional reporting tasks and to add two representatives from the University of New Hampshire to the study commission. This piece of legislation has been supported by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) as well as the Septage Task Force since its introduction.

"Brown grease" or grease trap waste is grease that has been collected via the wastewater stream through the use of a passive trap or interceptor. In New Hampshire, this material is regulated as septage in accordance with the DES Septage Management Rules, Env-Ws 1600. Improperly disposed grease can violate local sewer and health ordinances, clog sewer lines, cause costly repair and premature replacement of equipment at wastewater treatment plants (including disruption of service). As it relates to septic systems, improperly disposed grease can clog pipes and ruin leach fields causing them to fail. It is estimated that in New Hampshire, more than 5000 tons of grease trap grease are generated annually. Almost all of New Hampshire's "brown grease" is exported to our neighboring states of Maine and Massachusetts for recycling or disposal. Lack of in-state capacity translates into higher management costs for New Hampshire's businesses and may encourage mismanagement of the material.

The establishment of this study commission is a good initial step in bringing stakeholders together to better understand the problems of grease trap waste management and pursue solutions to develop in-state capacity for recycling and/or disposal.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please contact me or Patricia Hannon at 271-2758.

Sincerely,

*Michael P. Nolin*  
for Michael P. Nolin  
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Donald R. Philbrick  
Rep. Betsy L. Patten